

Possible Criteria for Screening and Prioritization of Alternatives

- 1) **Primary Objective: Effectiveness at Stabilizing and Recovering Groundwater Elevations in Areas of Groundwater Depletion**
 - High – Provides substantial, measurable progress toward preventing further groundwater elevation decline in both short- and long-term and recovering groundwater levels in the long-term
 - Medium – Provides some progress toward preventing further groundwater elevation decline and/or beneficial effect may be less-certain or difficult to measure. Ability to provide long-term recovery of groundwater elevations is uncertain.
 - Low – Only minor or uncertain impact on groundwater elevations; long-term benefits may be unknown
- 2) **Relative Cost** – qualitative approximation of the relative cost of the recommended action (including initial cost, ongoing operation and maintenance and cost per acre-foot)
 - High Priority – Low cost (\$1000's-10,000's and minimal ongoing cost), and may be addressed with staff/in-kind services
 - Medium Priority – In between high and low
 - Low Priority – Very high cost relative to other actions (initial cost in \$millions, and/or high ongoing costs)
 - * Indicate if a long-term annual or periodic funding needed
- 3) **Readiness to Proceed** – recommended actions that are ready to proceed in a relative sense to one another
 - High – Can proceed with little or no preparation under existing regulatory and institutional structures
 - Medium – Needs preparation of a workplan and or studies; may require regulatory compliance or minor changes to existing institutional authority
 - Low – Needs plans and studies and likely a pilot to initiate; may require significant regulatory compliance effort and/or institutional changes
- 4) **Feasibility/Implementability** – recommended actions are considered in terms of relative complexity, including legal, regulatory and institutional challenges, and likelihood of successful completion
 - High – Low complexity and high likelihood of successful completion
 - Medium – Medium complexity and likelihood of successful completion
 - Low – High complexity and uncertain likelihood of successful completion
- 5) **Leveraging Opportunity** – recommended actions that can leverage multiple resources, funding opportunities, multiple partners, or integrate several key opportunities are considered higher than those that do not
 - High – High likelihood of leveraging resources and opportunities
 - Medium – May be a possibility of leveraging resources
 - Low – Low likelihood of leveraging resources and opportunities
- 6) **Community and Political Support** – actions that have potential for community and political support are considered higher priority than those with poor potential support

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For TAC Discussion

- High – High community and political support
 - Medium – Mixed or neutral community and political support
 - Low – Substantial community and/or political opposition
- 7) **Multi-Objective/Supports Watershed Health** – Integrated projects that fulfill multiple objectives of the groundwater management plan (in addition to maintaining or increasing groundwater levels) and those that support overall watershed health, including aquifer recharge protection and enhancement, water quantity and quality, flood mitigation, and habitat protection, are considered higher priority than those that do not
- High – Meets many objectives and actions to support watershed health
 - Medium – Meets a few objectives and actions to support watershed health
 - Low – Meets little or no additional objectives and actions to support watershed health
- 8) **Addresses Potential Adverse Impacts or Unintended Consequences**
- High Priority– Little or no risk of adverse impacts or unintended consequences
 - Medium Priority – May be a possibility of adverse impacts or unintended consequences
 - Low Priority – Obvious risk of adverse impacts or unintended consequences